

country, making her truly deserving of our recognition and gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Friday April 4, 2014 I was not present for 6 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 159, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 160, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 161, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 162, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, I would have voted "no."

COLORADO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado Model Railroad Museum at the Greeley Freight Station.

Throughout our history, Colorado has been known for its numerous scenic railroads. Now this great state is also known around the world for housing America's finest railroad of another type—a model railroad. Just as the great railroads of America started with the dream of one man, so did the Greeley Freight Station Museum.

This story begins with a man named David Trussell, who grew up around the railroads and began modeling them early in his life. After serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, Mr. Trussell bought his first newspaper business and began his journey towards his greatest achievement. Mr. Trussell moved to Greeley, Colorado, to publish the Greeley Tribune, which he owned from 1990–1997. The Trussells fell in love with Colorado and Mr. Trussell decided to build his dream in this great state. He wanted to see if he could construct the "ultimate" model railroad. He purchased land directly between the Union Pacific mainline from Denver to Cheyenne and the Great Western Railroad's Greeley branch line. The plan was to build a new facility to house a 5,500 square-foot model railroad. A dedication for the building was held on February 11th, 2004. After more than five and a half years of construction, the Greeley Freight Station Museum opened its doors to the public on Memorial Day weekend of 2009. 1,800 visitors enjoyed the grand opening.

Since its inception 10 years ago, the museum has become one of the largest year-round attractions in Northern Colorado. During its first 4 years of operation, the museum saw more than 60,000 visitors, and most of that time, the museum was only open one day per week. With visitors from all 50 states in the first year and from over 45 different foreign countries since opening, the museum has be-

come an international attraction, and is now open daily during the summer months of high tourism.

The museum has been showcased on the cover of three international model railroading magazines and has been the feature of the PBS show, "Tracks Ahead". The economic impact for Greeley and Weld County from the influx of visitors has been substantial and with the increase in motor coach tours to the museum, it will only continue to grow. This family-friendly museum has been "bursting at the seams," so to speak, and now has outgrown its name too. Due to the increase in out-of-state and out-of-country visitors, the Greeley Freight Station Museum celebrated the tenth anniversary of its dedication on February 11, 2014, with a new name. The museum will now be the Colorado Model Railroad Museum at the Greeley Freight Station. Please join me in congratulating the Colorado Model Railroad Museum on its success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JOHN H. PRICE ON THE OCCASION OF OBTAINING STATE RECOGNITION AS FIRE OFFICER AND CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATOR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Fire Chief John H. Price for receiving the professional designations of Certified Fire Investigator and Fire Officer. Deputy Chief Price has been a fire fighter for the Easton Fire Department for 31 and a half years. After five years of study and hard work, Deputy Chief Price received the Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) certification. Through education, training, and years of experience, he met the requirements needed to pass the comprehensive exam and successfully obtain certification. Deputy Chief Price joins the 58 other Certified Fire Investigators in Pennsylvania. Additionally, Deputy Chief Price was awarded the designation of Fire Officer (FO) by the Commission on Professional Credentialing. There are only three Fire Officers in Pennsylvania, and Deputy Chief Price is the first officer from the Lehigh Valley to obtain that distinction.

I offer my congratulations to Deputy Chief Price for obtaining the Certified Fire Investigator and Fire Officer certifications, and I applaud him for his continuing dedication to the City of Easton Fire Department and his outstanding efforts to develop as a professional in order to keep the Easton community safe. I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Deputy Chief John Price for his outstanding service and achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOODBANK OF MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTIES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. Since 1984, the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties has been providing resources to try to combat food insecurity in Monmouth and Ocean Counties and their efforts are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since its opening, the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties (the FoodBank) has grown immensely in size and mission. Started in a warehouse in Spring Lake with the help of volunteers and donated supplies, the FoodBank quickly began receiving food from hundreds of donors to assist residents of the Jersey Shore. Within 10 years, the FoodBank went from serving 25 charities with 100,000 pounds of food in 1985 to distributing almost 2 million pounds of food. In 2001, the FoodBank opened an expanded 40,000 square foot facility in Neptune to accommodate the growing demand and today serves 260 agencies with over 8.5 million pounds of food annually.

Although its largest program is emergency food distribution, the FoodBank also began programs and resources to further assist local residents and increase efforts to create food-secure communities. The FoodBank offers residents a culinary training program, nutrition education, free tax preparation, SNAP application assistance and assistance with the Affordable Care Act through trained and certified Health Care Marketplace navigators.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties as it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The organization continues to provide outstanding service to the residents of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGIC SHOOTING AT FORT HOOD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sorrow for the family members of those that were lost in the terrible tragedy that occurred on April 2, 2014, at Fort Hood, in my home State of Texas.

Three soldiers were killed, with an additional sixteen injured, before the gunman turned the gun on himself. Our brave American soldiers are all too aware of the dangers and turmoil of war. When they return from war, we can only hope that they would return to the peace and security that they have sacrificed so much to create and protect.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the fallen soldiers: Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson, age 39, of Mulberry, Florida; Sergeant Timothy W. Owens, age 37, of Effingham, Illinois; and Staff Sergeant Carlos A. Lazaney-

Rodriguez, age 38, of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. These three brave soldiers were laid to rest entirely too soon. These three soldiers will be remembered for their achievements and their dedication to our country.

Americans are becoming all too familiar with tragedy of this magnitude, but it does not change the immense heartache and pain that comes with the loss of some of our nation's finest. A horrible tragedy such as this highlights the importance of serving our soldiers both while at war and during the difficult transition back into normal life. Worse is that it comes in the wake of another terrible incident at Fort Hood that occurred just five years prior. We must be able to wholly understand the challenges that our soldiers face in a time of such stringent and demanding operational tempos.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to the families of those that were lost on April 2, and offer my deepest condolences and hopes for the sixteen others that were injured in the shooting.

The men and women of Fort Hood are true American heroes. They deserve our greatest honors for the sacrifices they make every single day, within and beyond our borders. It must be our duty to always remember those that we have lost and we must be forever dedicated to preventing tragedies like these from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in honor of the three fallen soldiers, Sergeant First Class Ferguson, Sergeant Owens, and Staff Sergeant Lazaney-Rodriguez.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS CARDOZA FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and former colleague, Dennis Cardoza. Dennis served as the U.S. Congressman for the 18th Congressional District of California. He has truly led a life dedicated to public service, and his efforts deserve to be commended.

Dennis grew up in Atwater, California where he attended Atwater High School followed by California State University, Stanislaus. He later transferred to the University of Maryland College Park where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1982. He was the first member of his family to graduate college. Dennis' first taste of public service came in 1979 when he spent a summer in college interning on Capitol Hill.

After graduation, Dennis returned to the San Joaquin Valley where he ran a successful small business and served as a city councilman for Merced and Atwater. In 1996, he was elected to the California State Assembly where he served as Chairman of the Rules Committee and cofounder of the Moderate Democratic Caucus.

In 2002, Dennis was elected to his first term in Congress. He had many legislative accomplishments that truly made a difference in his

district. Dennis was an unwavering advocate for issues impacting Valley residents such as water, agriculture, unemployment, and poverty. Dennis lobbied to bring Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack to the Central Valley. Their visit influenced the decision by the Department of Agriculture to declare Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties as natural disaster areas. Also, Dennis was an active member of the Blue Dog Coalition. He proudly cosponsored H.R. 2166 the "Fiscal Honesty and Accountability Act of 2009" to extend Pay-As-You-Go spending through 2014 in order to strengthen Congress' commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. In 2007 Dennis joined the House Rules Committee where he assisted the victims of the Valley's home foreclosure crisis by securing language in H.R. 1728, the "Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act", that established a federal database to track foreclosures across the country. In the 110th and 111th Congresses, Dennis served as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, which had a prominent role in the formation of the 2007 Farm Bill.

Dennis believes that one of our greatest responsibilities as a society is to leave our nation a better place for our children and grandchildren. Dennis worked diligently to ensure that the University of California's 10th campus would be in Merced, California. In addition, one of Dennis' proudest legislative accomplishments was the language he introduced in the "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act", which ensures that children in the foster care system receive necessary medical attention until the age of 21. Dennis has been an advocate on behalf of children and adoption not just as a legislator but also as a parent, raising two adopted children in addition to his one biological daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the leadership and public service of Dennis Cardoza. His contributions to the Central Valley, the State of California, and the future generations of this nation ennobled this body of Congress with his presence.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today outraged and baffled that we are in the 21st century and still have to have an Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day symbolizes when, more than three months into the year, women's wages finally catch up to what men were paid in the previous year.

Why this is still being debated when the Equal Pay Act was passed 51 years ago is crazy.

How can we as a nation begin to justify unequal pay simply because you are a man and I am a woman? Why does my gender diminish my value to the workforce?

I, and all women, am not asking for any more than what we deserve for being productive, valuable employees.

Today, in 2014, women earn 77 cents for every dollar that a man earns. This is outrageous. It gets even worse for women of color. Black women only earn 64 percent and Hispanic women, even less, just 53 percent of what white men earn. I am appalled by this, and so are the American people. Not only does my gender decrease my pay, but my race does as well.

According to the American Association of University Women, African-American and Hispanic women are paid less than their white peers even when they have the same educational background.

There are a record number of women in the workplace and two-thirds of women are the primary or co-bread winner in their families. Consider the position that the American family, our economy and our nation would be in if we all agreed that women should have equal pay for equal work. Our President said it best, "When women succeed, America succeeds."

Women are losing money every year and every hour due to the pay gap. It is time to close the loopholes in the Equal Pay Act.

I urge Speaker BOEHNER to bring H.R. 377 the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor.

HONORING CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD, GRAPEVINE- COLLEYVILLE ISD, AND HURST- EULESS-BEDFORD ISD FOR THE DISTINCTION OF "BEST COMMU- NITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION"

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of three school districts in the 24th District of Texas, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, and Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, that have recently been designated to receive the prestigious honor of "Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

The "Best Communities for Music Education" is a program that celebrates communities in America who support access to music education as part of their core curriculum. Each school district involved filled out a survey that answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. This year, with over 2,000 school districts nominated, 376 were awarded this designation, of which I am incredibly honored to have three of those in the 24th District of Texas. This award recognizes the commitment of these school administrations, community leaders, teachers, and parents who believe in music education and are working to ensure that it is part of a complete education for children.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this recognition from the NAAM Foundation for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Grapevine-Colleyville, and Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School Districts.